

[For Private Circulation.]

REPORT OF AID

GIVEN TO

Destitute Mothers and Infants

IN

1884.

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M. D.,

Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

A. S. WHITNEY, M. D.,

Resident Physician of N. E. Hospital for Women and Children.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M. D.,

Admitting Physician to the Mass. Infant Asylum.

OBJECT OF THIS CHARITY.

The object of this charity is:—

1. To give a short convalescence to any mother discharged with a young infant from a maternity hospital, no longer requiring medical care, but not yet able to work, and without means to procure the two or three weeks' rest so much needed at this period; also, occasionally, previous to the admission of applicants to these hospitals, to pay their board for a week or two, in case they are without a home, friendless, and penniless.

2. To find good boarding-places for those infants whose mothers are engaged in domestic service, or earning their living in any way which prevents their retaining the infants under their personal care, and to visit children so placed, in order to be sure that they have the attention which they require. Occasionally, also, a mother who lives in her own home receives temporary assistance.

3. Especially to watch over and befriend those unmarried mothers, who, not yet depraved, are in danger of falling into evil from their peculiarly exposed and friendless condition. A large proportion of these are girls under twenty years of age.

In selecting from a large number of applicants those whom we assist, we are governed by the following considerations:—

1st. The love of the mother for her infant, and her corresponding desire to support it and retain it in her care.

2d. The urgent necessity and danger of those young unmarried girls who are without friends who can assist them. This class are usually orphans.

3d. The temporary poverty which is the occasional misfortune of some respectable married women, who often need only a little help for two or three weeks until tided over this period.

On the other hand, we refuse, —

1st. Those who are actually depraved.

2d. Those who regard the care of their infants as a burden from which they wish to be relieved.

3d. Those who, having earned good wages for a considerable time previous to the application, have neglected the opportunity to save money, and thus have less claim than others to receive charity.

4th. Those who have relatives able to assist them.

5th. Those who appear to be permanent paupers (a certain class of women familiar to workers in all charities).

Our work, therefore, resolves itself into, —

1st. The careful investigation of cases that present themselves.

2d. The selection of good boarding-places for infants, and the constant supervision of infants placed at board.

3d. A friendly and judicious care for the welfare of the younger and more helpless mothers.

REPORT.

Again we offer our friends a short account of our work during the past year. We have not space for many details, but we mention briefly a few facts that may be interesting.

During the year an unusually large number of those whom we have helped have become self-supporting, needing no further aid.

A somewhat larger proportion than usual have been eventually received and cared for by their own relatives.

Since the last Report was published, three mothers whom we had assisted have married respectably. In each case the woman had lived a steady and upright life for at least two years, and each married a man of good character, who was much attached to her.

As our readers may be interested to hear a little more of the cases mentioned in our last Report, we will here say that "No. 1" is living with her father and mother. Her father pays her \$1.25 a week for her work, and she has a little employment by which she earns something more. Her child is with her, and both are well. We received lately a cheerful letter from her.

"No. 3" is doing remarkably well. This is the more encouraging, as when she first applied to us we hesitated to take charge of her, she being in such weak health we feared she would never be able to support herself. She had been in two State institutions (Tewksbury and Bridgewater). However, her strong love for her child decided us to assist her. The child was placed at board, she paying nearly all she earned for its support, but receiving some help from us. In 1884 she was fortunate in finding a situation where her child was allowed to remain with her. This arrangement has lasted nearly a year; she earns \$1.50 a week, and has a comfortable home with an employer who values

her services. She is very happy in having her little girl with her, and needs no farther help from us.

The following cases have not been mentioned before. If we had space we could relate many interesting histories; we select one or two:—

German-American, 17 years old when she came to us more than three years ago. Was described by her relatives as a dull, indolent girl, without ambition, and they doubted her will and ability to take care of her infant. But her strong love for the child aroused her. The Massachusetts Infant Asylum received her as wet-nurse, and she supported herself and baby there for several months. After leaving the Asylum, we procured her a place, where she has now lived more than two years, and which seems likely to be a permanent home for both mother and child.

An American girl, 17 years old at date of application,* more than four years ago. She was very unhappy at being separated from her child, though she saw it every day. We finally arranged that she should take her infant home, and, by uniting with her mother in taking charge of three or four other children, they were able to meet the expenses of their home.

A Nova Scotia girl, 18 years old at date of application, four years ago. Has paid most of her wages steadily for four years for her child's board. Lately married to a man who knows her history, and means to adopt her child as his own.

A New Brunswick woman, 28 years old. Delicate health, troubled with rheumatism. We helped her for some weeks, and then the Massachusetts Infant Asylum received her child, she paying all she could for its support. Last summer the child was two years old, at which age children are discharged from the Asylum. By our advice the mother returned to New Brunswick to her family. She was kindly received, and her father adopted her little boy as his own.

We are sometimes met by the objection that "it is not important to save the lives of infants, some of whom are in danger of inheriting evil tendencies; whose parents are poor, and in some cases depraved, and who are thus likely to become a burden to the community."

* The women mentioned are unmarried, unless it is otherwise stated.

We reply that we do not assist depraved women. Our principal object in regard to a mother whom we help is to place her in the way of earning her own and her child's support; in some cases, to save her from becoming pauperized; in others, to help her to escape the dangers which threaten a friendless young girl who is as yet not depraved, but whose desolate position may be the cause of her being exposed to temptation, unless she receives judicious aid at the time when she needs it most. Our best assistant toward this end is her child, since the development of the mother's higher nature is best attained by the unselfish love and care which her helpless little one requires. It is a great mistake to suppose that an unmarried mother does not usually love her child. Often the attachment is very strong; it is the one thing in the world for which she does care, — the best influence for good, the most powerful incentive to an upright life, — and she will make almost any sacrifice rather than part from it.

The help given by us to a married woman is usually temporary; but it is often greatly needed for a short time to tide over a brief period of illness and destitution.

Our greatest need at present is of situations where a mother and infant may be placed together, the mother receiving low wages in consideration of being allowed to retain her child. Such an arrangement we have occasionally been able to make, and it has proved very satisfactory. But we need many more places than we have as yet been able to obtain.

We also often need a place where a woman may work for her board some weeks or months before going to the hospital. It is hard to provide for a patient at this time. She cannot do heavy work, but it is necessary for her to earn her living. Her board cannot be paid more than two or three weeks without spending more money than ought to be given to one case; and, even if this were not so, it is bad for the patient, both physically and morally, to be idle a long time. If a small family, where one or two ladies do their own work, would give a home to a woman at such a time, a great deal of good would be done, and we could now and then offer a woman whose services would be

valuable, and who would be grateful for any kindness. We ask earnestly all who read this Report to give the subject their kind consideration.

We add a brief statement of some of the cases first taken in charge during the year 1884. They are not selected, but taken in the order in which they stand on our list.

1. Irish, 20 years old. Mother a widow, who earns her living by washing. At first refused to receive the daughter's infant, but relented, and took it and the mother home. The child is thirteen months old at date of Report, and a letter lately received shows that it is well cared for. No money spent on this case.

2. Irish-American, 21. Very anxious to keep her child; would do anything to support it. We paid its board for two or three weeks. The mother then obtained a place with good wages, and wholly supported it, we having selected the boarding-place.

3. Irish-American, 16. Two brothers earned the living of the family, and were so harsh to the sister that her mother was afraid to keep her at home. We found her a place to work for her board for two or three months before her child was born; but later the mother was able to take both her daughter and the infant home.

4. A young woman of deficient intellect, with not quite intelligence enough to be considered responsible. No mother, but a kind elder sister and an aged father; very poor. Her child has been placed in the care of a charitable institution, she paying all she can earn for its support.

5. Irish-American, 19. This girl has a mother whose violence of temper amounts almost to insanity. One day, when her mother had ordered her to leave the house, and carry her child — then a year old — away with her, she applied to us to find her a place where she could have her child with her; but when we had obtained such a place for her, the mother refused to let her go, and upbraided us with great bitterness. Upon some one suggesting to the daughter that her mother must be a little out of her mind, she said, "O, no, ma'am; but she has had a great deal of trouble."

6. New Brunswick, 25. Had a long illness. Her child was born in February, and she was not able to leave the hospital until the last of August. As her life was in danger at one time, a letter was written to her family, who already knew her circumstances. The answer was "that they did not care if she did die." The Massachusetts Infant Asylum took charge of her infant.

7. Portuguese; age not known. Child (almost two years old at date of application) had a spinal complaint. The mother was at service in a very kind family. We found a temporary boarding-place for the child, and afterwards succeeded in having him admitted to a hospital for treatment; but his disease proved not curable, and the mother finally took him back to Fayal, her native place.

8. Italian, 19. No relatives in this country. Had been at service with a lady who was very kind to her, but whom she had left unwisely. We found her a place where she worked for her board before being admitted to the hospital. Her infant died when only two days old, and the mother went back to live with the same lady who had received her before she went to the hospital. Her previous employer had engaged another domestic in her place, and could not take her back.

9. Irish-American, 18. Parents very poor. A large family of children. We obtained a free bed for her in a hospital. The parents then took charge both of her and of her infant.

10. Colored, 17. Mother living; father dead. Mother very bitter against her. We found her a place to work for her board, and she had a free bed at the hospital. Later we arranged that she should go to the Massachusetts Infant Asylum as wet-nurse, taking her child with her; but the mother objected to this, and took her daughter and the infant home, which she had at first refused to do.

11. American, 25. Her child was eighteen months old at date of application. She had been struggling to support it without aid; but the difficulties were too great, and she finally felt that she must put the child into a home for adoption. The matron, seeing her distress at the thought of parting from her child, advised her to apply to us; and we obtained better-paid employment for her, which enabled her to support the child wholly.

12. British Provinces, 24. Her infant died at birth, and one of the ladies interested in our work has taken the mother into her family as domestic.

13. Irish, 20. While sick and destitute was frightened by her only relative, an aunt, into giving up her infant, a month old, that it might be placed in a home. Three weeks later she came to us, begging us to find her baby for her, "for her heart was broken, and she could not live without her child." The child had been refused admission to the Home, where application was made, there being no vacancy; and the woman to whose charge it was entrusted had, during a cold winter night, left it upon a doorstep, where it was found, nearly dead. We succeeded in obtaining it from the poorhouse authorities, and restored it to the mother, whose devotion to it for several months has been remarkable. We hope soon to arrange that she may have it with her permanently.

We take this opportunity to return cordial thanks to the physicians whose generous kindness has been of so much service to us in our work.

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

MRS. W. C. WILLIAMSON.

MARY R. PARKMAN.

LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

Subscriptions may be sent to MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain, Mass., or to DR. CHARLES P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough Street, Boston.

MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1884.*

Old cases (continued from 1883) . . .	45	American	7
New cases (taken first in 1884) . . .	90	English	1
	<hr/>	German	1
Whole number assisted . . .	135	Scotch	1
Married women (new cases) . . .	31	Spanish	1
Unmarried women (new cases) . . .	59	French-Canadian	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	90	American	7
Married women (old cases) . . .	15	Other Nationalities	24
Unmarried women (old cases) . . .	30		<hr/>
	<hr/>		31
	45	NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES. (Unmarried.)	
NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES. (Married.)		Irish	8
Irish	4	Irish-American	5
Irish-American	5	American	6
British Provinces	3	British Provinces	6
American	1	Swedish	1
English	1	German	1
German	1	German-American	1
	<hr/>	Scotch	1
	15	Swiss	1
American	1		<hr/>
Other Nationalities	14		30
NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES. (Unmarried.)		American	6
Irish	13	Other Nationalities	24
Irish-American	11	AGES OF NEW CASES. (Unmarried.)	
American	13	16 years old	3
British Provinces	10	17 " "	4
English	3	18 " "	4
Scotch	2	19 " "	8
Colored	3	20 " "	9
Swedish	1	21 " "	4
Portuguese	1	22 " "	7
Italian	1	23 " "	3
Jewish	1	24 " "	7
	<hr/>	25 " "	4
	59	Over 25	5
American	13	Unknown	1
Other Nationalities	46		<hr/>
NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES. (Married.)			59
Irish	7	20 years old and under 20	28
Irish-American	5	20 to 25	25
British Provinces	7	Over 25	5
		Unknown	1

* Each number represents a mother and infant.

RECEIVED DURING 1884.

Blake, Mrs. George Baty . . .	\$20 00	Kimball, Mrs. David P. . . .	\$100 00
Blake, Mrs. S. Parkman . . .	2 00	Lamb, Miss Rose	10 00
Cabot, Dr. S.	25 00	Lowell, Miss Anna C. . . .	150 00
"Cash"	200 00	Lyman, Arthur T.	50 00
Clarke, Miss Cora H.	5 00	Mason, Miss Ida M.	50 00
Clarke, James Freeman . . .	100 00	May, Miss A. W.	5 00
Clarke, Miss Rebecca . . .	5 00	Motte, Mrs. Ellis L.	3 00
Cheney, Mrs. E. D.	10 00	Norcross, Miss Laura . . .	5 00
Coolidge, Mrs. J. T., Jr. . .	10 00	Paine, The Misses	10 00
Cummings, Mrs. Charles A. .	5 00	Parkman, Miss M. R. . . .	10 00
Curtis, Mrs. Greeley S. . . .	10 00	Parsons, Miss A. Q. T. . . .	5 00
Curtis, Mrs. Margaret S. . .	15 00	Phillips, Miss A. D.	25 00
Davis, Miss A. W.	10 00	Richardson, Mrs. Jeffrey . .	50 00
Dresel, Mrs. Otto	20 00	Russell, Miss Marian	25 00
Emerson, Mrs. E. W.	10 00	Stone, Mrs. Whiton	10 00
Emerson, Mrs. R. W.	10 00	Walbach, Mrs. P. R.	30 00
Faulkner, Mrs. Geo.	5 00	Wales, Miss M. A.	50 00
Fields, Mrs. J. T.	10 00	Ware, Dr. C. E.	100 00
Gardner, Mrs. George	25 00	Weld, Mrs. Wm. F.	50 00
Gray, Mrs. Horace	25 00	White, Miss Amy	5 00
Greene, Mrs. Wm. B.	389 00	Whitmore, Miss Charlotte . .	10 00
Grew, H. S.	25 00	Wigglesworth, Geo.	50 00
Higginson, George.	300 00	Winslow, Mrs. Ellen B. . . .	5 00
Holmes, Mrs. O. W.	5 00	Wolcott, Mrs. J. Huntington .	50 00
Kidder, Mrs. H. P.	50 00		

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

King's Chapel Sewing Society, large bundle of clothing for women and children.
Church of Disciples, Benevolent Committee, by Mrs. A. G. Bowditch, large quantity of clothing for women and children.
Boston Sewing Circle, clothing for women and children.
Miss C. L. Ware, 4 hand-knit sacks for infants, 4 pairs socks, 8 cotton slips.
Miss E. M. Shumway, 6 pairs knit socks.
Sewing Circle of young ladies, by Miss Anna G. May, 4 infant's slips.
(The Circle also made up a number of infant's flannel slips.)
Misses Sever, clothing for women.
Mrs. E. C. Clarke, clothing for infants.
Miss Annette Huidekoper, boots for women.
Mrs. N. G. Chapin, shoes for children.
"A Friend," large bundle of clothing for women.
Mrs. T. C. Smith, and Misses Smith, clothing for women and children.
Mrs. Cobb, clothing for children.
Miss Mary B. Comyns, clothing for children.
Mrs. Wm. S. Carter, " "

The clothing that we buy consists chiefly of shoes, stockings, and flannels.

*Destitute Mothers and Infants in account with
Anna H. Clarke, Treasurer.*

Jan. 1, 1884, to Dec. 31, 1884,	Dr.
To board of infants	\$1,009 19
“ “ women	172 71
“ clothing for women and children	310 49
“ food and milk	222 04
“ fares	251 82
“ medicine	49 89
“ advertising	42 50
“ furniture	36 00
“ printing	28 40
“ sundries	78 75
“ paid to assistant (gift of Mrs. Wm. B. Greene)	161 00
“ balance on hand to new account, Jan. 1, 1885	24 58

\$2,387 37

Cr.

By cash on hand Jan. 1, 1884.	\$1 37
“ subscriptions	2,149 00
“ gift of Mrs W. B. Greene for salary of assistant	161 00
“ interest on bond	70 00
“ money repaid	6 00

\$2,387 37
